flower, But they did contribute a great deal by bringing together many species and varieties in their collections, and these collections were the sources for other areas.

There is no record of hybridization in the continental United States before the turn of the Century. In fact, the first hybrids reported in Florida were in about 1908, from seed imported from Hawaii by Elbert N. Reasoner, of Bradenton, who also did some pollenizing in 1913. From that time on, there was a strong interest in hibiscus in Florida, but the first Floridians to do any consistent development of hibiscus were George Anderson of Ft. Lauderdale, J. J. Mc Cann of Punta Gorda and James E. Hendry of Ft. Myers, all of whom have passed away. These men worked mostly between the years 1925-30.

However, Florida has always had a corps of dedicated enthusiasts and over the years they have developed many fine varieties. It was logical then that when the idea of a national society for hibiscus growers was discussed, that Florida should take the lead.

It would be unfair to pass over Texas when discussing hibiscus in the United States. And in terms of hibiscus, Texas means the late Edward Teas of Houston, a grand old man, and a plantsman of the school fast passing away. He did not hybridize, but was an avid collector, and as we were both interested in the flower, we exchanged varieties over a period of 20 years prior to his death in 1953. Because my handwriting is atrocious, as was his, our labels were something to behold and it is said that between us we changed the names of many varieties.

Here in California, I have found no evidence of any hybridizing prior to the time that I began throwing pollen around. Rosa Sinensis has been grown in this state for over 100 years and while some seed and even seedlings were brought in from Hawaii during the height of the early interest in the flower in the Islands, we have continued to grow only the tried and

proven older types which have been abandoned in other areas for a generation or more.

One reason for the lack of interest in hybridization in California is that except under special conditions, Rosa Sinensis does not seed in the open here, as it does in Hawaii and Florida and the better hybrids do not seed readily at any time except under controlled conditions.

I have purposely placed Hawaii last in my description of the history of hibiscus hybridization for the reason that it is in Hawaii where, historically, the greatest amount of work has been done and where the highest development of flower forms have been achieved. There are perhaps fewer enthusiasts working in Hawaii than there were 40 years ago, but some fine things are now coming out of the Islands again.

According to their records, the first hybridizer in Hawaii was W. M. Gifford of Honolulu, who made his first crosses in 1902. Not long after this, quite a lot of enthusiasts began to cross, drawing on the large collections in Hawaii and on their own native species. It should be said here that until the Hawaiian folks started that, there had been little change in the form or color since its introduction from China and India two hundred years before and that our modern hybrids began with their efforts. It was not until 1911 however, that interest reached its greatest height, and in the five succeeding years, both amateurs and the staff of the Hawaiian Agricultural Station made hundreds of recorded crosses and distributed thousands of cuttings for dooryard plantings. A Hibiscus Society was organized in 1911 and several annual shows were held, stimulating wide interest in the flower.

During this period, over 2500 different hybrids were grown in Hawaii, few, if any, of which have persisted. Some of the first generation hybrids, such as LILLIAN WILDER and AGNES GALT, developed at that time,